

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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R 070945Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

US MISSION NATO 3430

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: APAG

REF: (A) STATE 108571, (B) STATE 108756

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS, POLCOUNS GAVE US DISCUSSION PAPER FOR MAY 24-27 APAG MEETING TO VAN EEKELEN, HEAD OF NATODIRECTORATE IN MFA. FROM THE HAGUE THERE WILL BE TWO MAN DELEGATION CONSISTING OF DIRECTOR OF POLICY PLANNING POSTHUMUS MEYJES AND VAN EEKELEN.

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2. VAN EEKELEN SAID MFA HAD DONE SOME THINKING ABOUT POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN WESTERN EUROPE GOVERNMENTS

WHICH DUTCH PARTICIPANTS MIGHT WISH TO SHARE AT APAG. CONCLUSIONS WERE THAT, IN GENERAL, SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL EVENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PREPARE FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY AND CONSIDER HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS EFFECTS RATHER THAN TO TAKE A PUBLIC STANCE IN OPPOSITION. VAN EEKELEN FOOTNOTED THIS OBSERVATION WITH THE THOUGHT THAT FOR A COUNTRY LIKE HOLLAND TO ISSUE A PUBLIC WARNING OF THIS SORT COULD AT BEST LEAD TO FEELINGS OF IRRITATION. THE EFFECT ON NATO OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE SERIOUS. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MERE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF A NATO PARTNER WOULD MAKE THAT PARTNER UNFIT TO CONTINUE IN THE ALLIANCE. NATURALLY NATO WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT PRACTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVING NPG AND MBFR ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS. OF COURSE, IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN A WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAD TO A RELAXATION OF DEFENSE EFFORTS. IN TERMS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, VAN EEKELEN NOTED THAT COMMUNISTS IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD POSE PROBLEMS NOT JUST FOR THE WEST BUT ALSO FOR MOSCOW. OF COURSE, COMMUNISTS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTRIES COULD BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SOVIET EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE FOLLOW-UP ON BASKET II CSCE ITEMS; AT THE SAME TIME, WESTERN ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ON BASKET III ITEMS WOULD BE COMPLICATED.

3. COMMENT: VAN EEKELEN'S REMARKS CONFIRM THAT MFA HAS BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT (SEE THE HAGUE 1772, 2204 AND 2387). GON REMAINS UNLIKELY TO BE OUT IN FRONT ON THIS ISSUE BUT WILL BE DISPOSED TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS IN AS LOW KEY AND PRAGMATIC A MANNER AS POSSIBLE. GOULD

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